

Capsular Release (for Frozen Shoulder) Rehabilitation Protocol

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Phase I: Maintain ROM (*0 to 6 weeks*)

- May remove dressing and shower postop day # 3.
- Sling should be used for comfort only
- Pulleys or Continuous Passive Motion (CPM) machine to be used 3-5 times per day.
- Supplement exercise program 3 times per day:
 - Immediate elbow, forearm and hand range of motion out of sling
 - Pendulum exercises
 - Aggressive PROM and capsular mobility in all planes
- Supervised PROM and capsular stretching 3 times per week.
- May start active scapular mobility exercises immediately.
- Initiate AROM when tolerated.

Phase II: Restore Function (*>6 weeks*)

- Initiate gentle rotator cuff strengthening (Theraband, dumbbells, etc)
- Continue scapular stabilizer strengthening.
- Avoid strengthening in positions of impingement.